

RASTER DATA COMPRESSION APPARATUS AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A plurality of patterns such as solid patterns, edge patterns, half-tone patterns, and verbatim data are losslessly represented in a compressed raster data stream. A pattern selection module selects among the various patterns to provide the best combination of lossless representations according to particular criteria such as storage compactness. A packet formatting module packs multiple pattern identifiers and lossless representations into a packet which may be transmitted compactly. Upon receipt, a packet deformatting module unpacks the pattern identifiers and lossless representations from the packet. After deformatting, a pattern decoding module uses the pattern identifier to activate appropriate pattern generation modules. Each pattern generation module regenerates data according to an indicated pattern to recreate the original raster data.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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